FEDERAL SIGNAL
Safety and Security Systems

Advancing security and well-being.

Informer™ Series
Tone Alert Receiver

Programming and Radio Alignment Manual for option I-SW

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Contents

SAFETY MESSAGE **1**

PROGRAMMING INSTRUCTIONS **2**

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN I-SW? 2
OPERATING REQUIREMENTS 2
SOFTWARE INSTALLATION 2
RS232 CABLE CONNECTIONS 3
SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION 3
I-SW INFORMER PROGRAMMING SOFTWARE DIALOG BOX 4

RF ALIGNMENT AND TEST INSTRUCTIONS **7**

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED 7
ALIGNMENT AND TEST PROCEDURE 7
Preparation *7*
Connections *8*
Checking the VCO Frequency Range *8*
Setting the Synthesizer on Frequency *8*
Aligning the Receiver and Setting Squelch *9*
Testing the Decoders *9*
Checking the Power Supplies (Test if a supply problem is suspected) *10*
Testing the Display and Controls (Confirms proper re-assembly) *10*
GENERAL INFORMATION 11

INDEX **13**

Safety Message

⚠ WARNING

It is important to follow all instructions shipped with this product. This device is to be installed by trained personnel who are thoroughly familiar with the country electric codes and will follow these guidelines as well as local codes.

Listed below are important safety instructions and precautions you should follow:

Read and Follow Instructions

- Read all the safety and operating instructions before the tone alert receiver (TAR) is operated.
- Follow all instructions in this manual and the 255334 Operation Manual.

Retain Instructions

- Retain the safety and operating instruction for future reference.

Heed Warnings

- Adhere to all warnings on the TAR and in the operating instructions.

Programming Warnings

- If programmed incorrectly, the TAR may fail to operate as intended.
- Only personnel thoroughly familiar with the TAR's operating instructions and the intended method of use should perform the programming.
- Always test the TAR for proper operation after programming and before placing into use.

RF Alignment Warning

- If the radio is aligned incorrectly, the TAR may fail to operate as intended.
- Only qualified radio technician thoroughly familiar with the TAR's operating instructions and the intended method of use should perform RF alignment.
- Test the TAR for proper operation after alignment and before placing into use.

Programming Instructions

⚠ WARNING

Correctly program the TAR per the user's specific application before placing into use. Perform programming after reading this manual. Test the TAR for proper operation after programming and before placing into use.

Develop a warning plan and train all users on the use of the warning system when the TAR is used for personnel warning applications.

What is Included in I-SW?

The Federal Signal model I-SW consists of the following:

- CD ROM containing the I-SW application program
- Serial programming cable to connect the Informer to the programming PC

Operating Requirements

- Personal Computer with the following:
  - MS Windows XP/Vista/7® operating system
  - CD ROM drive
  - 5 MB free Hard drive space
  - RS232 port
  - Mouse
  - Printer (optional)
- I-SW Software
- I-SW Serial Cable

Software Installation

1. Install the I-SW software from Windows. The CD ROM provides a self-installation utility.
2. Execute the setupx_x.exe to begin installation. The installation program places the program in the Windows programs folder.
3. Start the program by clicking on Start→Programs→I_SW

RS232 Cable Connections

1. Connect the Informer to the serial port of the PC. Do this before programming the Informer so its programming data can be read by I-SW.
2. Plug the modular cable provided with I-SW into the Informer and plug the other end into the computer's serial port.
3. Select the appropriate port number using the Setup menu.

Software Description

The Informer I-SW programming application software runs on the Microsoft Windows XP/Vista/7® operating system. Its purpose is to configure the "personality" of the Informer and program into EEPROM memory. You can read the configuration parameters from the Informer using this software program.

I-SW can program the complete operating system of the Informer into the Informer's FLASH memory. This is useful for installing software upgrades. You accomplish all programming over a standard RS232 port without requiring disassembly of the Informer. The software prompts the user to enter the appropriate parameter for each configuration item and saves the configuration to disk. All configuration information is viewable from a single screen. You can load saved configurations from disk, edit and send to the printer.

The application provides help prompts when you select a data entry point with the mouse. These prompts identify the type of information you need to enter and the range of allowable entries.

The configurable parameters are shown in the following screen layout.

I-SW Informer Programming Software Dialog Box

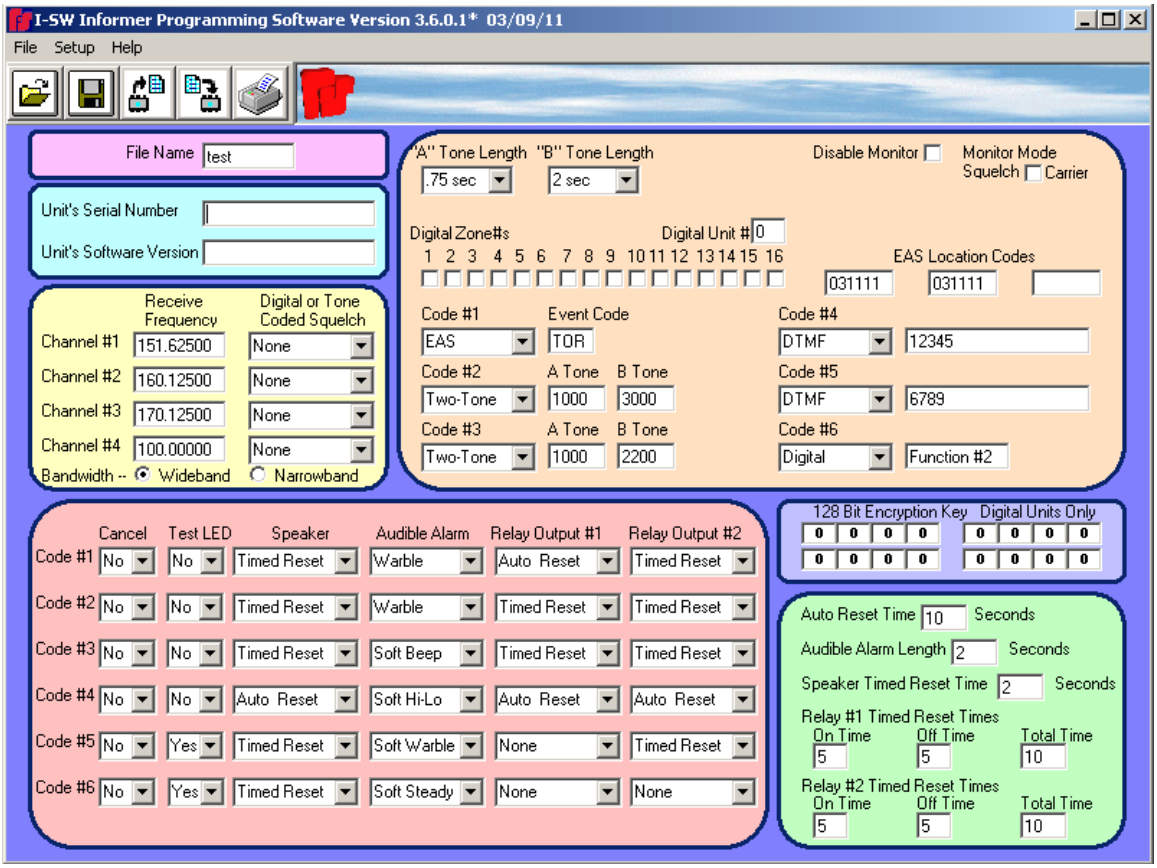


Table 1 I-SW Informer Programming Software Version

Fields	Description
Serial Number	This field is read from the unit. The factory programs the serial number when the Informer is built. You cannot change the serial number.
File Name and Unit's Software Version	These text boxes display the current configuration file name loaded and the current version of the executable program loaded in the Informer.
Receive Frequency	Enter RF frequencies for four separate RF channels. You must manually type in the RF frequency in MHz.
Bandwidth	Select if the unit is to receive wideband or narrowband signals.
CTCSS	Each RF frequency can have either a digital or tone PL assignment. You can choose from all available PLs using the drop-down list.
Codes #1 to #6	You can set up to six different activation codes. For each code, you may select Cancel (Y/N), Text LED (Y/N), Speaker (Auto Reset, Timed Reset, or Manual Reset), Audible Alarm (Steady tone, Warble tone, Beep tone, Hi-Lo tone, Soft Steady tone, Soft Warble tone, Soft Beep tone, Soft Hi-Lo tone or none), Relay Output #1 and #2 (Auto Reset, Timed Resent, or Manual Resent). Soft tones have a low level audio output. You can select the type of coding scheme for each code. The possible selections are Single-Tone, Two-Tone sequential, DTMF, Digital, and EAS:

Coding Schemes	**Single Tone** – Possible length selections range from 0.5 to 8 seconds. Select from the drop-down list. Enter a tone frequency between 300 and 3000 Hz (2300 Hz for narrowband channels). **Two Tone** – Possible selections range from 0.5 to 8 seconds for the first tone and 0.25 to 8 seconds for the second tone. Make tone duration selections from drop-down lists. Enter in tone frequencies between 300 and 3000 Hz (2300 Hz for narrow band channels) for each tone. If the frequencies of a tone pair are within 3% of each other, the boxes turn red, as a warning that the tones may be too close. **DTMF** – Enter any valid DTMF digit string from 1-12 digits. Precede the "Wild card" digits by the apostrophe character (‘). The number key (#) is the default "Wild Card" digit, which is accepted as a valid digit in addition to the digit preceded by the apostrophe character. For added security, use a minimum of three DTMF digits. **Digital** – Select any valid Commander function (1-50) from the drop-down list box. To activate the Informer, a matching Commander function must be decoded. You can select any one or combination of 16 zones by clicking on a check box. The zone selection applies to all digital Informer codes. You can enter a unit number 0 to 255. Codes sent for this unit number will activate the Informer. All-Call commands are also decoded by the Informer. (Federal Signal Digital decoding is an optionally purchased option.) You may enter a Digital Unit Number to allow the Informer to be individually controlled. Blank or zero (0) = All-Call. **EAS** – For each EAS code type you can select valid event codes from a drop-down list. You can replace characters in the event code by a question mark (?) to make the character a wildcard, meaning that any character is accepted as a match. You can enter up to three EAS location codes. If the unit is programmed for a 1/9 county, it always responds to "all county" and "all state" commands as well. (EAS decoding is an optionally purchased option.)
Disable Monitor	If this check box is checked, the unit is not able to enter monitor mode when the monitor button is pressed.
Monitor Mode Squelch	This check box enables the selection of PL or carrier based squelch.
128-Bit Encryption Key (I-FSK Option Only)	The 128-Bit Encryption Key is used to decode encrypted transmissions from the Federal Commander Digital System. The key consists of 16 numbers that can range from 0-255. Each number must match the corresponding encryption key used at the Commander's base station encoder. An encryption key of all zeros disables encryption. Set each number to 0 if the Informer is programmed with V2.16 or earlier Hex code. Pre-encryption program files have an encryption code of 255 in all fields. I-SW (V2.20 and greater) software automatically converts encryption keys containing all 255s to 0 (encryption disabled) when the Informer is programmed. The Encryption Key is not used if Digital decoding is not used.
Auto Reset Time	Number of seconds to wait before resetting after carrier is dropped. You can set from 0-127 seconds in 0.5-second steps, that is, 126.5 seconds.

Audible Alarm Length	Number of seconds the audible alarm will sound. You can be set from 0-254 seconds in 1-second steps.
Speaker Timed Reset Time	Number of seconds the Monitor function are active after an activation command is received. You can set from 0-3600 seconds in 1-second steps. ***Note***: The Audible Alarm Length time must expire before the speaker audio can be heard.
Relay #1 & Relay #2 Timed Reset	Sets the relay on duration, off duration, and total relay activation duration. You can set the on and off times from 0-127 seconds in 0.5 second steps. You can set the total time from 0-3600 seconds in 1-second steps. (Relay outputs are an optionally purchased option.)
Icons	Under your menu options, the following icons are provided: Open File, Save to Disk, Program Unit, Read from Unit, and Print Label. These options are also available from the File menu.
File Menu	Enables selection of the following: Open File, Save to Disk, Program Unit, Read from Unit, Print Label, Update Software, Exit, and About TAR (TAR software version number information).
Update Software Menu	File→ Update Software is selected from the file menu. This feature is used to select the Informer executable program (HEX file) for downloading into the unit.
Setup Menu	Setup allows the user to select COM1 through COM4 to be used for programming the Informer.
Help Menu	Help screens are provided from the HELP menu and when a selection box is selected with the mouse.

RF Alignment and Test Instructions

⚠ WARNING

The TAR has been aligned at the factory to cover the specified range of frequencies and should not require re-alignment if the unit is programmed to a frequency within this range. The ranges are as follows: 30 - 50 MHz, 150 - 170 MHz, and 450 - 470 MHz.

Always use appropriate ESD prevention to prevent damage to the Informer and text the Informer after programming.

Equipment Required

A Communications Analyzer with the following features is required to align the radio:

- RF Signal Generator
- RF Frequency counter
- SINAD meter
- Modulation meter
- Volt meter
- Oscilloscope (optional)

The appropriate encoders are required to encode: Tone, DTMF, CTCSS, EAS, or Digital codes as applicable.

Alignment and Test Procedure

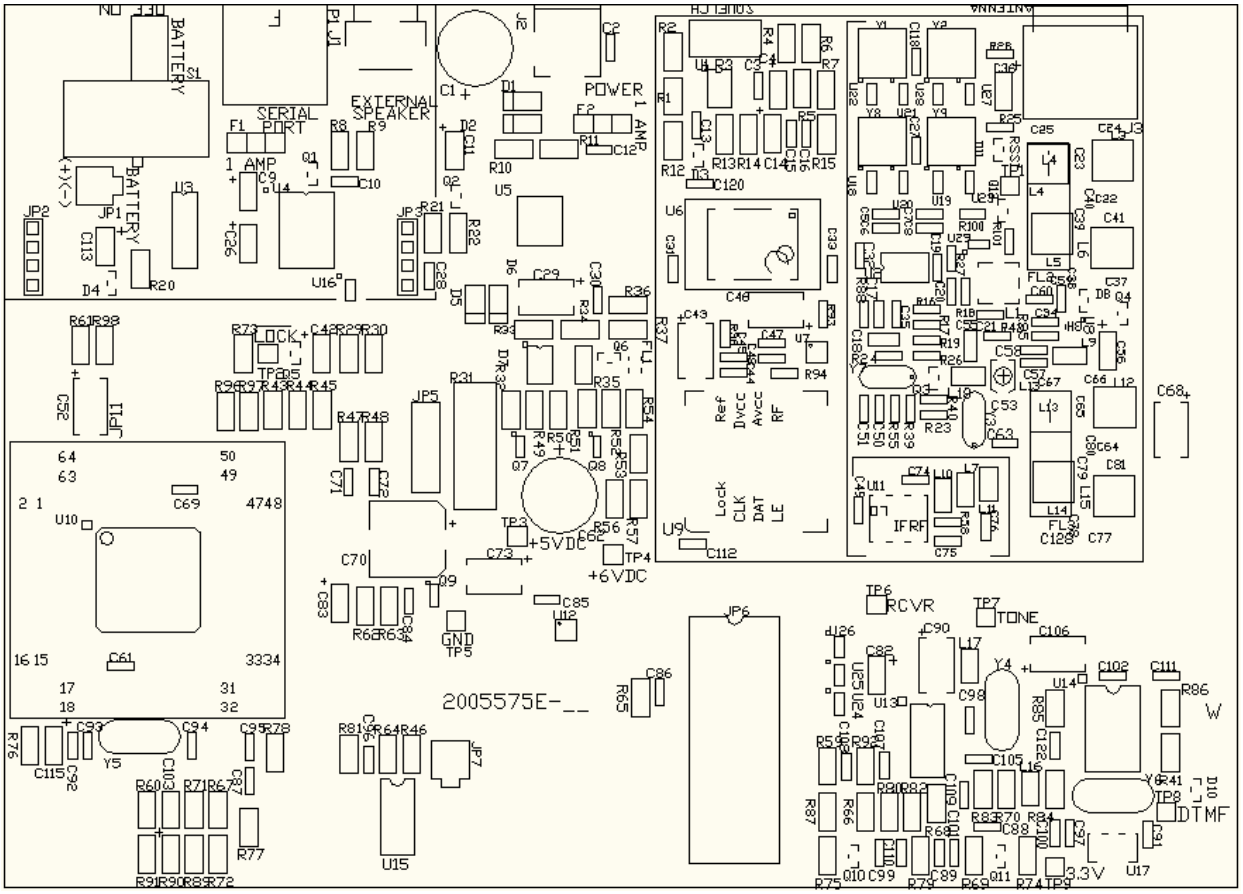
Preparation

1. Verify that the RF frequency(s) and coding sequence(s) to be aligned and texted have been properly programmed into the Informer.
2. Remove the Informer PCB from the plastic housing. Remove the battery connection from the PCB. Do not remove the keypad and speaker from the PCB. Place on a non-conductive surface adjacent to the housing.

Connections

1. Connect the 9 VDC power supply to the Informer.
2. Plug the power supply to the AC outlet.

Figure 1 Informer Test Point and Parts Location Drawing



Checking the VCO Frequency Range

1. Confirm the voltage on TP2 is less than 1 Volt indicating that the synthesizer is in lock.

Setting the Synthesizer on Frequency

1. Using a service monitor set in receive mode, monitor the frequency of the VCO by placing a pickup loop on top of the VCO/ /Synthesizer, U9.
2. Set the VCO frequency to the receive frequency of - 21.4 MHz, unless the unit is a Low band VHF unit, then set the frequency to be 21.4 MHz + the receive frequency.
3. Adjust the frequency of the VCO using the trimmer cap in TCXO U6 until the frequency is within +/- 300 Hz.

Aligning the Receiver and Setting Squelch

1. For Low Band (30 - 50 MHz) High Band (150 - 170 MHz) and UHF (450 - 470 MHz), the units have been pre-tuned to cover these frequency ranges and require no further front end tuning. The discriminator, L1, and the I.F., C74, have been aligned by the factory, and should not need to be re-aligned when changing programming (steps 3, 4, and 5). The alignment procedure follows.
2. Inject a 100 uV signal into the receiver and modulate the signal with a 1 kHz tone at 3 kHz (1.5 kHz for narrowband) deviation.
3. Monitor the receive audio at test point TP6 with an Oscilloscope, and *carefully* adjust coil L1 for the most level.
4. The level at test point TP6. This should be 900 mV_{p-p} +/- 200 mV.
5. Connect a Distortion meter to TP6 and *slowly* adjust variable cap C74 for lowest distortion. This should be less than 3.0%.
6. Connect a SINAD meter to test-point TP6 and reduce the level of the RF signal from the service monitor until the SINAD meter reads 12 dB. This should be less than 0.35 uV for all bands.
7. Press the monitor button to monitor speaker audio. Adjust the squelch pot (R3) until squelch just breaks. Verify the 1 kHz tone is heard over the speaker when the unit is un-squelched and the speaker is muted when squelched.
8. Radio alignment is now complete.

Testing the Decoders

Set the RF level to 0.5 micro Volts for all decode tests. Run the appropriate decode tests matching the programming of the Informer.

CTCSS

1. Perform this test with Monitor Mode Squelch selected when the Informer is programmed. Place the Informer in Monitor Mode.
2. Modulate the service monitor with the proper CTCSS tone at 750 Hz (375 Hz for narrowband) of deviation and inject a 1 kHz tone at 3 kHz (1.5 kHz for narrowband) deviation for a total deviation of 3.75 kHz (1.875 kHz for narrowband). Confirm that the 1 kHz is heard in the speaker when the CTCSS tone is present.
3. Remove the CTCSS tone and confirm that the speaker quiets.

Single Tone and Two-Tone Sequential

1. Encode the appropriate Single or Two Tone sequential tones at 3 kHz (1.5 kHz for narrowband) deviation.

2. Confirm that the unit decodes each tone set and that the ALERT LED flashes unless the TEST LED is programmed to turn on.

   Note: The TAR cannot decode two-tone codes while a tone is being generated by the TAR.

DTMF

1. Set the encoder to send DTMF codes with a timing of 50 ms. digit on time and 50 ms. digit off time at 3 kHz (1.5 kHz for narrowband) of deviation.
2. Encode the appropriate DTMF strings as programmed into the Informer. Confirm that the unit decodes each set of DTMF codes, and that the ALERT LED flashes after each decode (unless the TEST LED is programmed to turn on).

EAS and Digital

1. Set the encoder to send EAS or Digital codes at 4 kHz (2 kHz for narrowband) of deviation.
2. Encode the appropriate EAS or Digital codes as programmed into the Informer. Confirm that the unit decodes each set of codes and that the ALERT LED flashes after each decode (unless the TEST LED is programmed to turn on).

Checking the Power Supplies (Test if a supply problem is suspected)

1. Turn the “Battery” switch ON.
2. Confirm +6.75 to 6.90 VDC at test point TP4.
3. Confirm +5 VDC +/- .10 V at test point TP3.
4. Confirm that the Green “AC POWER” LED is on steady.
5. Unplug the wall transformer and confirm that the “AC POWER” LED starts to flash.
6. Reduce the voltage of the variable supply to 5.0 VDC and Confirm that the unit shuts off.

Testing the Display and Controls (Confirms proper re-assembly)

1. Disconnect the service monitor from the unit.
2. Re-assemble the Informer into the housing after alignment is complete.
3. Press the MONITOR button and Confirm that the ALERT LED lights steady red. (Monitor must be enabled in software to perform this test.)
4. Press and hold the MONITOR button for longer than 5 seconds.
5. Confirm that squelch noise is heard in the speaker.
6. Press the “Volume Up” button and confirm that the volume of the noise goes up.

7. Press the “Volume Down” button and confirm that the volume of the noise goes down.
8. Press the RESET button and confirm the following actions occur:
   - Squelch noise is shut off.
   - Confirm that a beep is heard from the speaker.
   - Confirm that the TEST and the ALERT LED’s (yellow and red) light momentarily.
9. End of Alignment and Test.

General Information

If you are experiencing any difficulties with the Informer, contact Federal Signal Customer Care at: **1-800-548-7229** or Technical Support at: **1-800-524-3021**

Website: http://www.alertnotification.com/
E-mail: techsupport-ans@federalsignal.com

Index

1

128-Bit Encryption Key (I-FSK Option Only) 5

A

Aligning the Receiver and Setting Squelch.....9
Alignment and Test Procedure 7
Audible Alarm Length 6
Auto Reset Time.....6

B

Bandwidth.....4

C

Checking the Power Supplies.....10
Checking the VCO Frequency Range.....8
Codes #1 to #6 4
Coding Schemes.....5
Connections 8
CTCSS 4, 9
Customer Care 11

D

Disable Monitor 5
DTMF 10

E

EAS and Digital.....10
Equipment Required.....7

F

File Menu.....6
File Name and Unit's Software Version 4

H

Help Menu 6

I

Icons.....6
I-SW Informer Programming Software Dialog Box 4

M

Monitor Mode Squelch 5

O

Operating Requirements..... 2

P

Preparation 7
Programming Instructions..... 2

R

Receive Frequency 4
Relay #1 & Relay #2 Timed Reset 6
RF Alignment and Test Instructions..... 7
RS232 Cable Connections..... 3

S

Safety Message 1
Serial Number 4
Setting the Synthesizer on Frequency..... 8
Setup Menu..... 6
Single Tone and Two-Tone Sequential 9
Software Description..... 3
Software Installation 2
Speaker Timed Reset Time 6

T

Technical Support..... 11
Testing the Decoders..... 9
Testing the Display and Controls..... 10

U

Update Software Menu..... 6

W

What is Included in I-SW? 2

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